

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the present application. Favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as being based on a disclosure that, according to the Examiner, is not enabling. The Examiner has also rejected claim 1 for not reciting a fifth signal generator. Claims 1, 12 and 18 have also been rejected with respect to support for the sixth signal generator.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 1-18 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 recites a fifth signal generator for indicating a shift position, in communication with said control module following the recitation of the fourth signal generator. The fifth signal generator is shown in FIG. 1 as element 32 showing PRNDL to indicate the shift positions park, reverse, neutral, drive and low. The element 32 is also described in the specification, for example, in paragraphs 11, 20 and 21. As described in paragraph 20 for operation of the control system 20, "When the shift position sensor 32 indicates that the vehicle is in drive or low, the object detection sensor 24 is operational in the front of the vehicle." Applicant respectfully asserts that FIG.1 and the description of the fifth signal generator for indicating a shift position is fully enabled by the disclosure so that the skilled artisan would know how to make and use the invention without undue experimentation. Claims 2-11 are also fully enabled.

Applicant also respectfully asserts that claims 1, 12 and 18, requiring "a sixth signal generator for indicating a distance zone selected by an operator for an operation distance for said system", "determining a zone of operation selected by an operator for operation" and "means for selecting a zone of operation", respectively, are supported by the specification. For example, as described in paragraph 12, the operator may use the switch 50 to manually set the distance zone at which the system 10 operates to avoid a collision. An example of a preferred embodiment is described in paragraph 12 where

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the operator may set the distance to be in the range of about 0.1 meters to about 3 meters. Further, since the collision avoidance system includes a sensor 24 that can detect objects in the front and rear of the vehicle as well as on the sides of, beneath and above the vehicle as described in paragraph 16, the distance zone may extend in any direction. A skilled artisan will understand what is meant by selecting a distance zone either manually or automatically using common knowledge and the description in the specification to avoid a collision with an object in the selected distance zone.

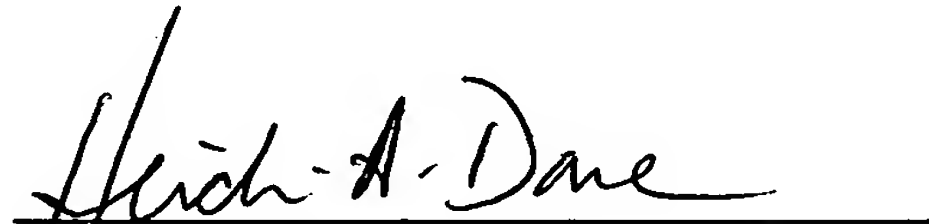
Dependent claims 13-17 are also enabled.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

Pending claims 1-18 are patentable. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi A. Dare", is written over a horizontal line.

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